

Writat Newy 2^d 1851

Friday

My dear Mr. May,

I am reluctant that the next Mail should not take a few lines to you, but posting time is so close at hand, that I must be very brief. Indeed I seldom now can sit down with ^{the} deliberate intention of writing a letter worth reading to any friend.

Thank you for thinking of me in the troubled state of mind your ^{last} letter, (of April 14th - I think) betrayed. I was very anxious to know the result of his case, & was fully prepared for the result you deplore. I cannot but presume you must have been so too: for how, (as I understand the matter) with the pro-slavery feeling of the majority of Boston, and with the armed force of Govt. to support that feeling, could the colored people & Abolit^{ns} have any hope of rescuing a Slave by either moral or physical force? Though apprehending some serious events, I cannot but hope & believe, that the effort of the Govt. to crush the convicence of so large a mass of high principled people as really remain, must in the end prove fruitless. - The

Lib.^o of Apt. 11 anticipating by my fortnightly supply, was very acceptable.

Wm. & Ellen Craft with my sister in law Mrs. Mitchell were round my hearth when your letter came, & you may suppose how eagerly the C^o listened to its contents. Poor Ellen sighed deeply at Lewis's fate: Craft regretted that he had not killed the policeman to have secured the merciful punishment of being hanged at Boston, instead of being sent back to slavery. What a comment upon the transaction!

The Crafts have been with ^{us for} the most part of 3 weeks, & W. W. Brown a good deal of the time. We seemed to have known but little of the iniquity of slavery till hearing Ellen's quiet, tea-table, incident of details of her experience. She has not had the tranquillity and free communication with friends that she has had with us, since she left Boston; and often has she spoken of our home ^{as} ~~as~~ home.

Brown has been backward, & slow and, very energetic & efficient in what he does. But for the fortunate meeting & arrangement of the C^o with him, they wd have been lost to the A. S. world. Their union is a mutual advantage. Brown has made liberal terms with

them. They had kind, but not judicious, (I am
very far) advisers in the North of England, neither
their interest nor respectability (Ellen's except?)
being properly consulted. Some of their handbills
have been ~~so~~ headed, "Arrival of 3 Fugitive
Slaves from America"!!! as if 3 monkeys
had been imported, & their public appearance
has been too often of the exhibition kind.
Neither B. nor, of course (anti), was quite up
to the sort of position they ought to take, Ellen's
instructions made her view the whole matter
in its precisely correct light, & most thankful
is she for the way in which we have spoken
to B. & W. The proceedings of our
advising Bristol Meeting on the 9th of April;
(which were entirely arranged by us) will show
you the sort of position we think our friends
ought to take. 8 or 10 ladies accompanied
Ellen to the platform. They (after) left
us after a most interesting visit on Wednesday
for Plymouth. After clearing all expenses
the Meeting & Lectures here, realized £28.0.0
besides what was got by a large sale of Brown's
Narrative, & Ellen's picture. - By a paper

just come I find they had at Plymouth
the large Theatre Royal, crowded. 10 guineas
were paid for its hire; but as all people ^{freely} ~~came~~
I doubt not there will be a handsome
surplus. Next, they go to Exeter, then to
Taunton & Bridgewater, thence to Gloucester
Cheltenham & Bath. In all these
places we are materially helping them,
and have drawn up a respectable handbill.
The Bristol one was bad enough; though I
had not then offered my advice I took the liberty
of marking this bill left of the showman
character, & introduced a sentiment of
about the "Christ's Slaveholders".

Thomas's panorama is not good enough
to be pushed as in the bill I indicate: in their
new one, I have made the Lectures
prominent, & spoke only of their being illus-
trated by a painting. The "White Slave"
too is omitted, to Ellen's great delight, tho'
C. & B. rather liked it. They go on very
harmoniously together, & with her sum-
of Means energy. My impression is, the

² he is a little indolent. Ellen is quite the reverse.
She worked hard at reading & writing while here.

The most painful part of their visit to Bristol
was the discussion they had with Russell Cor-
bentor, his heartless manner of speaking of Slavery,
& his endeavours to give prominence to only
its best aspect, — if there be one better than another
distressed & disgusted them. He had long de-
clared here that he saw white & colored people
communicate together in Dr. Gilman's church.
They denied the possibility of such a proceeding,
& as an indignity, that the colored people, ^{for} took of
the Lady's Supper at the same time with
the white, it was in a distinct pew — & from
a distinct cup!

My daughter has been confined for the last
week at Bridgewater by illness. The Slavery
question was brought forward at the West of England
Anti-Slavery Convention, & we, the

Committee (Messrs. James, Arms to say, myself
&c) were completely beaten. Next Saturday

"Inquirer" will, I hope, contain a Report

that we have thoroughly stirred up the
Orthodox Churches — even the Birmingham

A. S. M. have visited our Leader, G.
T. M. have issued a something similar
Book, & have re-printed in a somewhat
altered form, my "Clerical Teaching on
Slavery". This last document has had
an immense circulation. ^{Religious} Ministers are
hoping A. S. M. The 7th London Anti
Meeting of the Baptists have adopted
one. Even the "B. & F. A. S. M." have
driven to follow our example To-day's
"Anti Slavery Observer" (Vide letter
sent at the Bristol A. S. Meeting reported
in the ^{B.}Examiner) has articles & Resolutions
& an editorial of their own!! I am
receiving thanks for the castigation I
have given the Socy?

The Bristol Unit. Cong. is going to
have a general Meeting to address the
"B. & F. A. S. M." the next to let us be
in the rear of our orthodox brethren. It
will not ^{any good} do, D. Gamwell, Dr. Dewey, &
I fear Russell C. will expect much in

Excuse there in writing the question

I have had numerous interruptions
Part time is come, so with a hundred
things unsaid, I must subscribe myself

Dear Cousin

J. B. Heller

I will send some things in }
to fill up my envelope - }

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 14 p. 30